

ARCHIVAL

# OUTLOOK

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**Play Ball!** Fort Wayne Daisies catcher Dorothy "Dottie" Schroeder was twenty years old in 1948 and already playing in her fifth season in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League. *The American Archivist* is raising its game with a new web presence and other enhancements on deck. Catch Editor Greg Hunter's article on page 28 for the full lineup! Photo courtesy *State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory*, <http://floridamemory.com/items/show/56236>.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Kathleen Roe**

kathleen.d.roe@gmail.com

# We're All in This Together

Like many others, I came to this field after pursuing graduate work in history. After a friend chose the sixteenth-century Irish navy as a thesis topic, I was left wondering if I could home in on something so specific as my “passion”—thirty years on one country, one time period, one topic? Fortunately, a professor at Michigan State University steered me to an opening for a student assistant at the State of Michigan Archives as a way to explore other options.

That's where I met Geneva Kebler Wiskemann, a tiny woman who walked fast, talked faster, and exuded an incomparable passion for archives. She taught me various work processes, but, more importantly, as we worked, she talked about why archives, particularly government archives, are essential to individuals and the functioning of government and organizations. It was not just work for Geneva—archives and serving the public was a mission with purpose, significant outcomes, and something that can and does make a difference. Her vision and energy were infectious, and I've thankfully never recovered from that exposure.

At Geneva's urging, after finishing my master's in history, I entered Wayne State University's MLS program with a concentration in archives, then taught by Dr. Philip P. Mason. Phil not only provided a thorough and thoughtful education in archives, he took seriously his role as a mentor. For many years after I graduated, he had lunch with me at SAA annual meetings, stopped by when he was driving through on research trips, and was always available to talk. His careful mentoring expanded and enhanced my commitment to archives as a profession in which I could make intellectually stimulating and personally rewarding contributions and as a field that changes lives and affects society in subtle but significant ways.

Throughout my career, I've tried to “pay forward” the kind of mentoring and collegiality that Geneva and Phil so generously shared. Recently I was fortunate to return to Wayne to meet with their energetic staff and students. I discussed Geneva and Phil and how their mentoring has been so important to me. Among those attending was Caitlin Brennecke, a recent Wayne grad who's been doing

behind-the-scenes work for me collating submissions for “The Year of Living Dangerously for Archives.” This morning Caitlin emailed to tell me that she had taken an oral history workshop, taught by none other than Geneva Kebler Wiskemann. She introduced herself to Geneva and let her know that she is a second-generation Wiskemann protégé.

The connections we make as archivists matter, and they matter for a long time. Whether it is a formal mentoring relationship or simply sharing our energy, skills, and passion for archives, it will have an impact on the field. So as part of my challenge to you all to make this “The Year of Living Dangerously for Archives,” I encourage you to reach out to one another—talk to the young archivist sitting next to you at a meeting, email a more experienced archivist with a question, respond to someone on Twitter or Facebook, or just stick out your hand at a meeting and introduce yourself. You never know what chain of relationships you may create, and we will be a better profession for it. ■

# ARCHIVAL OUTLOOK



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The Society of American Archivists serves the education and information needs of its members and provides leadership to help ensure the identification, preservation, and use of the nation's historical record.

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# ADVOCATING

WITH

# ALLIES



## The National Humanities Alliance and the Archives Profession

Dennis Riley, Brooklyn Navy Yard Archive

This past St. Patrick's Day, instead of honoring my heritage with a pint of Guinness or a Shamrock Shake, I found myself pounding the pavement on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. Along with more than one hundred other intrepid advocates, the agenda for my day was to meet with members of Congress and their staff to make the argument in support of federal funding for the humanities.

The day before I had participated in the National Humanities Alliance (NHA) annual meeting, where I heard a series of speakers outline the challenges that the humanities face not only in terms of funding, but also in advocating their importance within their own institutions and the communities they serve. Sound familiar?

### Common Themes

Some common themes among these conference presentations included:

- We ignore the practical, economic impact of the humanities at our peril.
- Public and private investment in the humanities is for the common good.
- The humanities strengthen citizenship and increase the soft power of the United States in terms of its cultural and global impact.

- A large base of cynical and underemployed professionals undercuts the humanities.
- While federal funding agencies, including the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), have had a positive impact and impressive return on investment, there has been a general downward trend in funding.
- There is a political, bipartisan focus on short-term job training when focusing on higher education at the expense of the humanities.
- Many face the challenge of advocating in a society focused on training skilled workers but not critical thinkers.
- Humanities are easy to bash and most people do not know what the term means so it is incumbent on us to educate the media and public at large.
- The humanities tend to “need committee approval” before responding to challenges and thus are not as nimble as their detractors.
- There is a need for clarity of language because many in the humanities have a propensity to speak in jargon and acronyms.

**Above:** Speakers at the National Humanities Alliance annual meeting outlined the challenges that humanities face. *Courtesy of Kwana Strong Photography, <http://www.kwanastrongphotography.com>.*

- When dealing with the press or lobbying, humanities advocates need to get to the point, not use jargon or talk down to the audience.
- Embrace the op-ed, particularly with the local press, as a service to the profession.

It strikes me as particularly interesting that in this list every instance of the word *humanities* could be replaced easily with the word *archives* and still be accurate and relevant. These themes echo familiar challenges faced by archives and archivists in advocating for the importance of our profession.

The NHA is spearheading an initiative aimed at strengthening support for the humanities by showcasing the impact that humanities organizations achieve at the local level. Still in its initial stages, the Humanities Working Groups for Community Impact Initiative will give local organizations the opportunity to develop shared agendas with the potential to energize local stakeholders.

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Where should a researcher go to find photographs of the world's first solar power plant, built in Egypt in the 1910s by a Philadelphia-based inventor?<sup>1</sup> Or the scrapbooks of renowned actress, singer, and special representative to the United Nations Pearl Bailey?<sup>2</sup> Or the records of the oldest continuously existing troop in the US National Guard?<sup>3</sup> These important collections are not held at well-known, professionally run archival institutions, but at small repositories without professional archivists on staff.

## The Small Repositories Project

It was the realization that thousands of such collections, largely hidden and unknown to researchers, exist in hundreds of small, under-the-radar repositories in the Greater Philadelphia area that inspired the Historical Society of Pennsylvania (HSP)'s *Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories* (HCI-PSAR). Known as the "small repositories project," HCI-PSAR is a five-year, multiphase initiative funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Its goal is to make archival collections in small repositories in the Philadelphia region better known and more accessible to researchers. Project staff work to identify and create an online directory of all small repositories in the region, survey and assess their archival collections, and create summary finding aids to these collections that are posted on a publicly accessible finding aids database.

Participating repositories include volunteer-run historical societies, museums, historic sites, churches, schools, community groups, performing arts institutions, ethnic organizations, and others. To be eligible for participation, organizations must be nonprofit, have historically significant archival collections that they agree to make available to researchers, and not employ a



## Building an Inclusive Community of Archival Practice with the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories

**Jack McCarthy (Historical Society of Pennsylvania),  
Celia Caust-Ellenbogen (Friends Historical  
Library of Swarthmore College), and Sarah Leu  
(Historical Society of Pennsylvania)**

full-time, professionally trained archivist. Since the launch of HCI-PSAR in 2011, project staff have visited 150 of these repositories and surveyed and created online finding aids to more than 1,200 individual archival collections.

### Managing the Collections

In addition to increasing intellectual access to small repository collections, the project provides repositories with useful information for managing their collections. Participating repositories receive a comprehensive survey report that includes a summary finding aid and an assessment of each of its archival

collections, as well as a processing plan for one or more of its collections and information on best practices for archival preservation and management. The finding aids, which are posted online, conform to *Describing Archives: A Content Standard* (DACS) for single-level, minimum description.

The assessments, which are not made public and are intended to help repositories in setting priorities for managing their collections, are numerical ratings with explanatory notes on each collection's condition, quality of housing, physical organization, intellectual access, and research value. (Research value is an assessment of how wide of a potential audience would be interested in the collection based on the topics it covers and how thoroughly it documents those topics.)

The assessment methodology was developed at the HSP in the early 2000s and has since been used in numerous other major archival survey projects, both in the Philadelphia region and nationally. An assessment module based on this methodology was integrated into



Documents stored in a biscuit box were discovered at a local historical society participating in the HCI-PSAR project. *Courtesy of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.*



Archivists' Toolkit and has been proposed for ArchivesSpace.

HCI-PSAR project staff also serves as a resource for Philadelphia-area small repositories, providing advice on issues of archival stewardship, managing a small repository listserv and a *Resources for Small Archives* website, and offering a series of monthly training programs on various aspects of archival work. Staff also stays in touch with repositories and the archival community through several social media outlets. These activities are designed to enhance repositories' stewardship of their collections and to foster a "community of practice," a network of support and communication among the region's small archival repositories.

## Building an Online Database

The HCI-PSAR project complements the work of several other hidden collections initiatives undertaken in recent years by the Philadelphia Area Consortium of Special Collections Libraries (PACSCL). PACSCL is a thirty-six-member consortium of the larger, professionally managed archival repositories and special collections libraries in the Greater Philadelphia area.



Project Director Jack McCarthy examines collections of the Roxborough Manayunk Wissahickon Historical Society with society President Sylvia Myers. *Courtesy of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.*

Beginning in 2004, PACSCL received Mellon Foundation funding, both directly from Mellon and later through the Council on Library and Information Resources, for a series of projects to survey the backlogged, unprocessed collections of its member institutions and to process select collections identified in the survey as being of high research value.

One of the outgrowths of these projects is the PACSCL finding aid website (<http://findingaids.pacscl.org>), a central online repository of finding aids to the collections of PACSCL member institutions. When

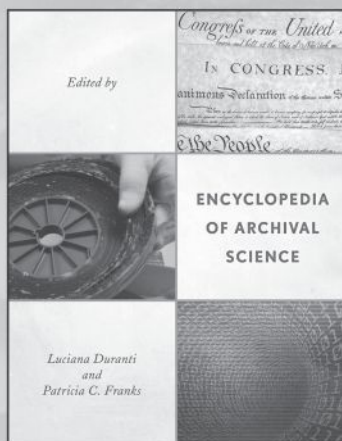
the HCI-PSAR project commenced in 2011, PACSCL agreed to host the finding aids created in that project on the website as well. With finding aids to the collections of both the larger, professionally managed PACSCL institutions and the smaller, nonprofessional HCI-PSAR repositories being contributed on a regular basis to one publicly accessible, fully searchable online database, the PACSCL finding aid website is

becoming one of the most comprehensive repositories in the nation of descriptive information on the archival collections of a specific metropolitan area.

## Committing to Small Repositories

The HCI-PSAR project is part of an overall effort by the HSP to engage with and support the broader community of small-to medium-sized history and heritage organizations in the Philadelphia region.

**Continued on page 24 >**



## Encyclopedia of Archival Science

Here is the first-ever comprehensive guide to archival concepts, principles and practices.

The *Encyclopedia of Archival Science* features 154 entries from traditional ideas (like *appraisal* and *provenance*) to today's challenges (*digitization* and *digital preservation*). They present the thoughts of leading luminaries like Ernst Posner, Margaret Cross-Norton, and Philip Brooks as well as those of contemporary authors and rising scholars.

Edited by Luciana Duranti from the University of British Columbia and Patricia Franks from San Jose State University, this landmark work was overseen by an editorial board comprised of leading archivists and archival educators from every continent.

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# REFUSING AMNESIA

## How a Fight to Preserve Chinese History Birthed an Archival Milestone

Zehao Zhou, York College of Pennsylvania

May 2016 will mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, when Mao Zedong led one of the most cataclysmic events in human history. Mao, then chairman of the Communist Party of China, launched an effort to preserve the “true” Communist ideology and to purge the country of ideological opponents. On the eve of this historic anniversary, access to vast amounts of archival sources on the early years of the People’s Republic of China (PRC) remains off limits to the public and researchers alike. Deemed “sensitive,” “internal,” or “classified” by the regime, most essential archival sources have been kept out of the public’s reach. Because critically important documents have been designated as internal documents, quality research on the Cultural Revolution has been unnecessarily challenging.

This decades-long government stranglehold on archival sources was finally broken in December 2014 when the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies at Harvard University, with technical support from the Universities Service Centre at the Chinese University of Hong Kong,

completed its four-part database series, *The Database for the History of Contemporary Chinese Political Campaigns, 1949–1976*.

### Sixteen Years in the Making

The birth of this seminal database series on the history of political campaigns in early PRC is a milestone sixteen years in

the making. It consists of four sub-datasets: *The Chinese Cultural Revolution Database*, *The Chinese Anti-Rightist Campaign Database*, *The Chinese Great Leap Forward and Great Famine Database*, and *The Database of Chinese Political Campaigns from Land Reform to State-Private Joint Ownership*. In total, the four databases comprise more than 32,000 archival documents with approximately 107,460,000 Chinese characters. New sources are added on a monthly basis and large updates will be made annually, making it not only the first database series on early PRC, but the most comprehensive and up-to-date one as well.

This collection of archival sources encompasses documents in several broad categories, ranging from official directives and reports and speeches by Mao and other senior party leaders, to local party archival materials, Red Guard texts, and a plethora of other internal and classified documents. The databases are available in CD-ROM format and through online subscription and are searchable in both English and Chinese as well as by subject, date, author, title, keyword, place, and organization.

Before the arrival of the database series—available in research libraries across the world—researchers and scholars studying the PRC faced two major challenges: the lack of accessible archival sources and the reliability and scope of the sources they did manage to find. The advent of this series has largely eliminated this problem.

### Shedding Light on PRC

The archival documents included in the series were gradually, and often painstakingly, obtained from countless sources over the



*The Database for the History of Contemporary Chinese Political Campaigns, 1949–1976* is a four-part database series on the history of political campaigns in the People’s Republic of China.

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## **Why Do Archivists Support Certification?**

*It provides  
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*It recognizes professional  
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In the past decade, nearly 1,400 professional archivists felt it was important to sit for the Certified Archivist examination.

The next Certified Archivist examination will be held August 19, 2015 in Boise (ID), Buffalo (NY), Cleveland (OH), Jacksonville (FL), Little Rock (AR) and Sacramento (CA) -- and wherever five or more eligible candidates want to take it.

For the 2015 application and more information about the Certified Archivist examination, go to the ACA website ([www.certifiedarchivists.org](http://www.certifiedarchivists.org)) or contact the ACA office (518-694-8471 or [aca@caphill.com](mailto:aca@caphill.com)).

# CROWDSOURCING MEMORIES

## *Developing a Crowdsourcing Model for Collection Development and Description*

**Natalie Baur, Cuban Heritage Collection, University of Miami Libraries**

When Hiram Ruston opened the doors of the Ruston Academy in 1920, he had a unique vision for his teachers and students. A private, bilingual, coeducational K–12 school in Havana, Cuba, Ruston Academy was a place where students from around the world could learn and grow together, come to understand one another in Spanish and English, and share the cultures and customs of students who came from many different countries.

The school was a success, and by 1940 more than 750 students were enrolled. In 1946, teachers James and Sibyl Baker inherited ownership of the school and continued in Ruston's footsteps by converting it to a nonprofit educational foundation to better serve its educational mission. The passion, dedication, and love for Ruston Academy has continued into the present despite the school closing in 1960 at the beginning of the Cuban Revolution. James Baker was instrumental in leading efforts to help Cuban children reach safe harbor in the United States with the Operation Pedro Pan program, a program run by the Catholic Welfare Bureau (Catholic Charities) of Miami, with the support of the US Department of State. Ruston's alumni now keep the school's spirit alive through an active alumni organization in exile, many of them also Pedro Pans aided to safety by their one-time principal.

### **A Dedicated Alumni Organization**

Ruston Academy alumni have always been interested in preserving their school's history, not only for themselves and the Cuban exile community, but also for the benefit of scholars and researchers. Chris Baker, a former president of the Ruston alumni group and son of James and Sibyl Baker, donated the bulk of the Ruston Academy materials to the Cuban Heritage Collection (CHC) at the University of Miami Libraries in 2012. These materials included photographs, scrapbooks, yearbooks, school newspapers, school brochures and other ephemera, and the records of the alumni organization, the Ruston-Baker Educational Institution.

Since the donation, the Baker family and the Ruston Academy alumni group have been actively involved in establishing the Ruston Academy archive. Chris Baker and his brother Dennis helped the CHC to identify people, places, and events in the donated photographs, and Chris worked with me for nearly a week to help sort through, organize, and give contextual information for the Ruston Academy and Ruston-Baker Educational Institution documents. In mid-2014, the CHC unveiled the Ruston Academy digital collection, which includes digitized photographs and historical Ruston Academy materials, such as yearbooks, brochures, and ephemera.

### **Pilot Project**

Although Baker and his brother helped the archives staff identify hundreds of donated photographs, there was still work to be done: Many photographs and ephemera had incomplete, misattributed, or incorrect metadata in the online digital collection. When the digital collection went live, Baker expressed interest in helping to improve description and identification. The CHC took this as an opportunity to develop a pilot crowdsourcing project in anticipation of rolling out a larger crowdsourcing project at the Ruston alumni meeting later that year.

To develop the pilot project, we worked with an existing crowdsourcing user guide developed by metadata librarian Matt Carruthers. The guide was modified for specific use by the Ruston group. Using the comment feature in CONTENTdm, CHC Chair María R. Estorino Dooling and I developed a commenting strategy based on two types of crowdsourced information: addition of information and corrections/misattributions. We divided the comments into these two categories to prioritize the work of changing the metadata in CONTENTdm.







**Above:** A Ruston Academy alumna and her son view materials on display from the Ruston Academy collection held at the Cuban Heritage Collection, November 2014. *Courtesy of the University of Miami Libraries.*

All added information, including descriptions of the history of an event, information about individuals in a photograph, or other contextual information, would be left in the comment field to live alongside the metadata in the description fields in CONTENTdm. However, corrections and misattributions would be prioritized so that metadata librarians would manually correct the information in the description fields. This approach is more sustainable for curators, metadata librarians, and their staff for handling the input of crowdsourced description for an active user base.

During summer 2014, Baker added more than one hundred comments to the digital collections with relative ease, and three additional participants also contributed comments.

## Working with the Ruston Alumni

While Baker's donation filled five boxes of materials, many other alumni still had materials that they were interested in donating. Estorino Dooling and Ruston Academy alumni leaders saw an opportunity to collaborate on bringing even more Rustonians and materials into the archive. Working with alumni leadership, Estorino Dooling arranged to host the group's 2014 alumni meeting at the CHC. In November, nearly one hundred Ruston alumni came to the collection to hear about the Ruston Academy archive, see the processed collection, and learn how to use the Ruston digital collection.

With the pilot project completed and a success, it was time to roll it out to the larger alumni community at the meeting. Working with the commenting guide and our experiences from the pilot project, I developed a workshop on digital collections and crowdsourced commenting for the visiting alumni. Walking the participants through accessing and using the digital collection first, I then demonstrated the ease of using the commenting feature using the conventions developed during the pilot project.

**Continued on page 23>>**



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# NEW DIGS

## Moving to a New Archives Facility at The Westminster Schools

Pamela Nye, The Westminster Schools

The Westminster Schools is an independent K–12 school in Atlanta, Georgia. The fifty-year-old Upper School Library underwent a major renovation with generous support from the Parker-Fraser Foundation and the Lewis H. Beck Foundation and reopened for students on March 16, 2015.

The archives were established in 1989; with the fortieth anniversary of the school approaching, leaders recognized the need to preserve and make available the school's history. Westminster was founded in 1951, but the school is made up of two legacy schools: the North Avenue Presbyterian School (NAPS) (1909–1951), and Washington Seminary (1878–1953). Their history became part of Westminster's history, and their alumni are now proudly part of the community.

When I began my position of director of archives at Westminster in August 2012, planning for the new space had already begun. I was pleased that I would be able to give my recommendations, as I had appreciated giving my input as a staff member during the planning of the Georgia Archives building. Like many archives, ours started in a space that was not originally meant to house an archives: a converted textbook storage area. It was also between floors on the mezzanine level. Not surprisingly, some knew we had an archives, but didn't know where it was located and had never been there.

During summer 2013, the library and the archives were moved to the basement of Askew Hall, one of the original classroom buildings on campus. It was a tight fit—I was allotted about one-and-a-half former classrooms—but we made it work. I had almost no room to do processing work or

take in current records, but a larger storage closet helped to store oversized boxes, the photograph collection, and the flat file cabinet.

The new Lewis H. Beck Archives is a dream come true for a school archivist: Now I have a processing room (which can double as a research room for a few researchers as needed), a receiving room where I can clean incoming records, a small office for this lone arranger, and, most importantly, a drastically enlarged stacks area. During construction, tracks were laid down for mobile shelving units so that I could take full advantage of the space the archives now occupies. The collection measures about 850 cubic feet of records, and there will be plenty of room for years to come. The Carlyle Fraser Library, which opened in 1962, was also given room to grow—it was

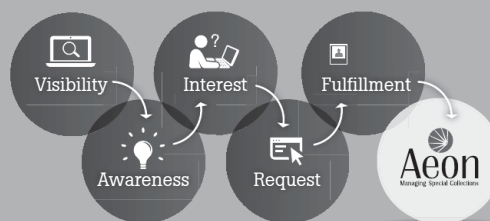
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# Michiana Memory



**Above:** Miss Davis and Miss Gillians—Lying in a Field, June 1923. *Courtesy of the Civil Rights Heritage Center Collection of the Indiana University South Bend Archives.*  
**Right:** Group of Children and Woman, circa 1920s. *Courtesy of the Streets Family Collection of the Indiana University South Bend Archives.*



## Collaborating to Digitize Local African American History

**Alison Stankrauff (Indiana University South Bend), Joseph Sipocz (St. Joseph County Public Library), and George Garner (Civil Rights Heritage Center at the Natatorium)**

The St. Joseph County Public Library (SJCPL) in South Bend, Indiana, and Indiana University South Bend (IUSB) Archives have significant original primary sources that tell the story of African Americans in St. Joseph County. Together, these collections provide a stronger, more complete documentation of this history than any can tell alone. To present a unified digital collection online for researchers and the general public—and to offer the opportunity for the community to add complementary materials in the future—we opted to digitize documents, photographs, and newspapers and launch a website together. Digitizing the materials provides greater access to our collections, while simultaneously allowing preservation and storage of the original documents.

### Launching *Michiana Memory*

The initial catalyst for the collaboration between SJCPL and IUSB came about in early 2014 when the SJCPL administration approved a Local and Family History Services staff request for a hosted

subscription to CONTENTdm. By April of that year, Joseph Sipocz and the Local and Family History Services staff had learned the basics of creating digital objects, roughed out collection ideas, and prepared scanning and metadata guidelines. SJCPL Librarian Barbara Wallace, with Library Assistant Greta Fisher, took the lead in preparing metadata templates, mapping out content workflows, and documenting best practice scanning guidelines.

The first items were ready for uploading in April, and on August 1 the site formally launched with a dedicated URL (<http://michianamemory.sjcpl.org/>) and more than two hundred compound objects ready for viewing. Taking a cue from *Indiana Memory*—a collaborative effort to provide access to primary sources relating to Indiana's history and culture—the site was named *Michiana Memory*. Michiana is the St. Joseph River basin, and includes three counties in Indiana and two counties in Michigan.

*Michiana Memory* includes the following collections: *St. Joseph County Maps &*

*Atlases, Civil Rights and African American History, Arts and Architecture, Postcards, High School Yearbooks, Local History, and Colfax and the Civil War.*

Sipocz wanted to fill out the *Civil Rights and African American History* collection and reached out to IUSB Archivist Alison Stankrauff and Tours and Collections Coordinator George Garner at the Civil Rights Heritage Center at the Natatorium to collaborate on a unified collection. To fund the collaboration, we applied for a 2014 LSTA Indiana Memory Digitization Grant.

### The Technical Plan and Usage

Upon approval of the LSTA Memory Digitization Grant, we used the \$10,000 in grant money to hire three part-time student grant workers. The grant workers scanned the materials, created master images, cropped the images, and derived JPEG files for uploading into CONTENTdm. They began scanning at the start of fall semester 2014, and the work will be completed

**Continued on page 27 >>**



## FROM THE ARCHIVIST OF THE UNITED STATES

**David S. Ferriero**

National Archives and Records Administration  
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# NARA Leads Search for Ways to Manage Emails

April 1 was a special day at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)—it was our thirtieth birthday as an independent agency. Archivist Robert Warner (1980–1985) had made it his top priority to free the archives from the General Services Administration and make NARA an independent agency within the executive branch. He succeeded, and we became independent April 1, 1985. On “independence day,” NARA’s work was mostly organizing, preserving, and providing access to what we call traditional records: photographs, maps, charts—and billions and billions of pages of paper.

But as we turn thirty, we face a challenge that few could have foreseen in 1985: how to manage the mammoth amount of electronic records created daily in the federal government—and, in particular, one kind of electronic record: email.

## Managing Emails

Tens of billions of email messages are created every year in the federal government. Some of them contain sensitive policy discussions by top officials. Some record the details of daily, routine government business throughout all agencies and departments. Some set up meetings, lunch dates, or a ride home.

Regardless of their content, they need to be managed. With a mandate from the President, our records management staff has been meeting with recordkeeping staffs throughout the government to find and develop ways to preserve emails.

When email first became common in our workday lives, the way to preserve them

was to “print and file.” But today, federal employees are too busy and not always equipped with the expertise to decide which ones to preserve.

For our part, we have asked the software industry to create automated systems that will take staff decision making out of the process and separate the permanent, “historically important” emails from those that do not need to be saved. But we have not been waiting for the private sector to come up with a solution. Already, we have created an email management system called Capstone. Under Capstone, the agency designates a number of senior officials as “Capstone officials” and saves all their emails as permanent records. Emails from all other agency employees are viewed as temporary and saved for only an appropriate amount of time.

We are now using Capstone at NARA and will base our guidance on our experiences with it. For the past four years, we have worked with the White House to require all agencies to adopt by 2016 Capstone or a comparable approach for managing emails.

## Help from Congress

Birthdays mean gifts, and we got an early one from Congress late last year in the form of new amendments to the 1950 Federal Records Act and the 1978 Presidential Records Act that update these laws, which are our basic recordkeeping statutes. The amendments expand the definition of a federal record to include electronic records. And it grants me and my successors as Archivist of the United States the authority to determine what constitutes a federal record.

Congress was also helpful to us when it came to emails. Now, the law requires officials who use nonofficial email accounts to copy or forward those emails into their official accounts within twenty days or be subject to disciplinary actions. Use of a nonofficial email account should only be used as a last resort.

## Sharing Solutions

Challenges involving electronic recordkeeping are not unique to the federal government. Universities, corporations, and privately owned businesses all wrestle with similar issues. But the challenges for records and information management professionals are clear: The volume of electronic records being created is enormous; providing access to these records is difficult and critical; and forecasting what will be “historically important” requires a blend of art and science.

We at NARA are an essential resource to other government departments and agencies. We provide training, guidance, and structure for modernizing and reforming records management. We are working with all federal agencies to ensure that our national treasures—in paper and electronic form—are saved for future generations.

As the leader in the government’s effort to solve the email management problem, we are committed to sharing with SAA and all our stakeholders the solutions we develop and adopt. We will use these solutions to help nongovernment entities meet the same challenges posed by emails and electronic records in general. ■



# Closing the Gender Gap on Wikipedia through Archival Outreach

Chloe Raub, Newcomb Archives and Vorhoff Library Special Collections, Tulane University

Wikipedia has a well-documented gender problem—at last count, the Wikimedia Foundation reported that only 9 percent of editors are women.<sup>1</sup> While the reasons for this deficit vary, the overwhelming result is that Wikipedia's articles are biased by a lack of diversity among its editors. As a repository that collects materials that document women's lives, the Newcomb Archives and Vorhoff Library Special Collections (NAVLSC) of the Newcomb College Institute of Tulane University was eager to participate in efforts to close the gender gap on Wikipedia and improve coverage of women and women-related topics.

## The GLAM-Wiki Initiative

In January, NAVLSC joined the GLAM-Wiki Initiative, a program intended to help galleries, libraries, archives, and museums share their unique cultural resources with the world. Our GLAM page is a hub for all Wikipedia activity: It lists articles that have been created or expanded upon using our collections, as well as existing articles to improve and new articles to create. It can take as little effort as adding a link to an online finding aid to improve an article's credibility, as one of Wikipedia's fundamental principles is that articles must be supported by verifiable sources.

Linking Wikipedia articles to online archival resources is also a great way to connect people with primary source materials for further research—after all, Wikipedia is the first stop for information for many internet users. The GLAM page is also a space to clearly state our objectives and institutional affiliation, in compliance with Wikipedia's guidelines on conflict of interest, and to invite volunteers to edit articles using our collections. It is also useful for promoting Wikipedia-related events like “edit-a-thons,” during which volunteers learn how to edit articles using resources provided by the host institution as references.

## Service-Learning Project

NAVLSC has begun to generate Wikipedia content through a two-part service-learning project with students enrolled in Tulane's

History of Reproductive Health course. Students from this class were matched to collections, including a collection of New Orleans Planned Parenthood's outreach and informational papers from the early 1990s and the papers of women lobbyists and activists for reproductive freedom in Louisiana. Students were asked to “reprocess” their collections as needed, which included tasks such as refolding, adding descriptive titles and inclusive date ranges at the folder level, and so on.

The second part of their project is to create articles on Wikipedia based on their collections, or to add to existing articles. The service-learning project provides students with an opportunity to engage with primary sources and practice writing in an online environment, while improving our collections and expanding their reach to new audiences.

## Art+Feminism

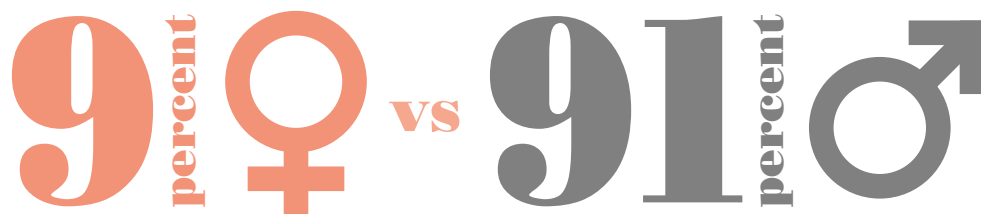
On March 8, NAVLSC participated in Art+Feminism, a global day of editing during which an estimated 1,500 participants from seventeen countries worked to improve Wikipedia's coverage of women in the arts.<sup>2</sup> We were thrilled to offer the first-ever Art+Feminism edit-a-thon in Louisiana—some participants found out about our edit-a-thon through Art+Feminism's main website and were excited to learn of a local host institution.

Our edit-a-thon included new editor training; suggestions for articles to edit and create; and access to archival collections, books, and art and biographical reference files. Fifteen participants worked to create four new articles and improve eleven existing articles. Volunteers included Tulane students and staff, community members, and an art history professor who joined us from Nicholls State University.

## Looking Ahead

NAVLSC hopes to embed its Wikipedia project in the class curriculums of faculty members who teach gender studies courses at Tulane. Some professors have expressed an interest in requiring Wikipedia contributions as a complimentary facet of their students' final research papers, and they are excited to find new ways to engage students with primary source research.

We also hope to participate in the Wikipedian-in-Residence program, intended to connect cultural institutions with skilled Wikipedia editors. We look forward to working to improve the coverage of women on Wikipedia through these efforts, while increasing public access to the lives and work of the women whose records comprise our collections.



In the meantime, to learn more about:

- NAVLSC's work with Wikipedia, visit our GLAM project page at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:GLAM/Newcomb\\_Archives\\_and\\_Vorhoff\\_Library/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:GLAM/Newcomb_Archives_and_Vorhoff_Library/).
- Art+Feminism, see <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Meetup/ArtAndFeminism>.
- GLAM-Wiki Initiative, see <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:GLAM>. ■

## Notes

<sup>1</sup> Khanna, A. (April 27, 2012). Nine out of ten Wikipedians continue to be men: Editor survey. Wikimedia Blog. Retrieved from <http://blog.wikimedia.org/2012/04/27/nine-out-of-ten-wikipedians-continue-to-be-men/>.

<sup>2</sup> Summary of outcomes, 2015. (Updated March 12, 2015). Retrieved March 31, 2015 from the Art+Feminism project page: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Meetup/ArtAndFeminism/Outcomes>.

# breaking down borders

## LACCHA Launches New Webinar Series with Colleagues in the Caribbean and Latin America

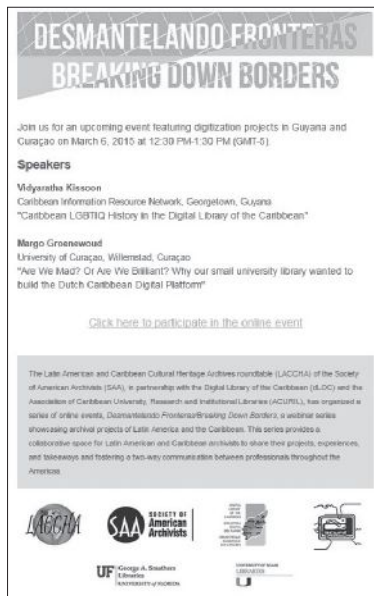
George Apodaca (University of Delaware), Natalie Baur (University of Miami), and Margarita Vargas-Betancourt (University of Florida), Latin American and Caribbean Cultural Heritage Archives Roundtable

The collaborative webinar series, “Desmantelando Fronteras/Breaking Down Borders,” provides a synergetic space where Latin American and Caribbean archivists can showcase their archival projects, experiences, and outcomes, while also affording the opportunity to foster two-way communication between professionals across the Americas.

Launched on March 6, 2015, by SAA’s Latin American and Caribbean Cultural Heritage Archives Roundtable (LACCHA), in conjunction with the Digital Library of the Caribbean (dLOC); the Association of Caribbean University, Research, and Institutional Libraries (ACURIL); and colleagues throughout the Western Hemisphere, it is the first in a series of online educational events set to take place throughout the year.

### Launching the Series

LACCHA Co-chairs Natalie Baur and Margarita Vargas-Betancourt first worked on developing a webinar on special collections for a Latin American audience through the US Department of State in 2012. When Baur and Vargas-Betancourt began working together as co-chairs in 2014, they saw that many North American archivists were interested in what colleagues were doing in archives throughout the Western Hemisphere. With the positive experience of working together previously



Evite for “Desmantelando Fronteras/Breaking Down Borders,” a webinar series hosted by the Latin American and Caribbean Cultural Heritage Archives Roundtable.

roundtable members to leverage their collective networks with other professional associations and librarians and archivists in the United States, Latin America, and the Caribbean to bring speakers on board who had a variety of experiences and could showcase dynamic projects. Apodaca also live tweets the webinars.

### The First Webinar

In March, two very insightful presentations provided a lens into the inner workings of projects throughout the Caribbean. Margo Groenewoud is the head of the Library and Research Services Department at the University of Curaçao—Dr. Moises da Costa Gomez. She moved to the Caribbean in 2008 and serves as chair of the dLOC Executive Board and as member of ACURIL’s Executive

on a webinar, the two decided to launch the “Desmantelando Fronteras/Breaking Down Borders” series through LACCHA.

LACCHA Online Communications Liaison George Apodaca worked to devise promotional strategies and develop a title for the new series. Because he periodically updates LACCHA’s social media channels, it allowed

Council, while having also previously served on OCLC’s Americas Regional Council from 2012–2014. Groenewoud’s presentation “Are We Mad? Or Are We Brilliant? Why Our Small University Library Wanted to Build the Dutch Caribbean Digital Platform,” recalls how a two-minute phone call turned into a two-hour window to write a proposal for the newly developed project. Her presentation highlights why both madness and brilliance are necessary to succeed. Because of these initiatives, the University of Curaçao is now home to the Dutch Caribbean Digital Platform, whose *raison d’être* is not only to increase the volume and availability of local digital content, but also to stimulate and diversify the use and research of material by creating and sharing local digital learning material on the island.

### The Second Webinar and What’s to Come

Next up, Vidyaratha Kissoon has been the coordinator for the Caribbean Information Resource Network (Caribbean IRN) since 2009 and spoke about his experiences working to build the digital collections of the Caribbean IRN. He is interested in the application of Information and Communications Technology for Development (ICT4D), primarily responsible for curating the Caribbean IRN Collection, and actively participates in social justice issues such as child protection; gender equality; and equality for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersexual, and Queer (LGBTIQ) citizens. He lives and works in Guyana and his presentation “Caribbean LGBTIQ History in the Digital Library of the Caribbean” drew attention to

Continued on page 27 >>



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## Nancy McGovern Elected Vice President



**Nancy McGovern**, head of curation and preservation services at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has been elected SAA vice president/president-elect for 2015–2016. She begins her one-year term this August following the Annual Meeting and will serve as the seventy-second president in 2016–2017. Current Vice President

Dennis Meissner will assume the 2015–2016 presidency in August.

A Fellow of SAA, McGovern encouraged SAA to focus its energy and other resources on providing targeted courses, collaborative opportunities, and outreach materials to help raise the profile of archives and archivists.

“Expanding courses on topics such as digital essentials for everyone, tips for managing hybrid (physical and digital) collections, and advanced courses in partnership with other professions when appropriate that respond to trends and needs would leverage SAA’s educational track record and the success of the Digital Archives Specialist (DAS) program,” McGovern wrote in her candidate statement.

McGovern also highlighted the Research Forum as an existing opportunity SAA offers for “members and participants from other professions and associations in North America and beyond [to] share information, discuss essential issues, and identify additional opportunities to collaborate.”

To increase outreach efforts, McGovern envisions growing and repackaging SAA’s guidance documentation and other resources to assist SAA members in reaching neighboring fields, creators, and users. “Providing endless opportunities to hone and present our collective elevator pitch on archival value would raise our profile and strengthen our community,” McGovern wrote.

### VOTER PARTICIPATION TRENDS

Year	Eligible Voters	Ballots Cast	Percentage of Voters
2015	6,056	1,467	24.2%
2014	5,971	1,202	20%
2013	5,900	1,008	17.1%
2012	5,675	1,337	23.5%
2011	5,618	1,472	26.2%

## Cheryl Stadel-Bevans to Be Next SAA Treasurer



**Cheryl Stadel-Bevans**, records manager and FOIA specialist at the Office of Inspector General, Department of Housing and Urban Development, was elected to a three-year term as SAA Treasurer. Her term will begin in August and will run through the SAA Annual Meeting in 2018.

To help ensure the financial well-being of SAA and bring more value to members, Stadel-Bevans will look to the strategic plan and recent membership data to align the budget with priorities, such as achieving professional excellence, fostering innovation, advocating for archives and archivists, and promoting diversity in both the profession and archival record. In her candidate statement, Stadel-Bevans also stressed the need for SAA to look to the future to plan for new developments or enhancements.

## Amy Cooper Cary, Bergis Jules, and Kris Kiesling to Join the SAA Council

**Amy Cooper Cary** (Marquette University), **Bergis Jules** (University of California, Riverside), and **Kris Kiesling** (University of Minnesota) have been elected to the Council for three-year terms (2015–2018). In their candidate statements, the newly elected explained how they would utilize their skills and experience to help SAA thrive in an environment that expects communication, collaboration, and demonstrated action.

### Amy Cooper Cary

“Fostering SAA as a thriving, dynamic organization—where collaborations result in actions that speak to our mission of excellence and innovation—does not happen in a vacuum. It requires cooperative work by all members of leadership, serving an engaged membership.

Transparency of leadership is critical to this endeavor. . . The lessons I’ve learned as MAC President will [serve] me well. I have learned that understanding the needs of the organization requires me to focus beyond the core leadership group. As a result, I’ve cultivated a leadership model where I try to consistently engage Council, working groups, and the membership to identify collaborators and problem solvers for specific organizational needs. I approach each situation with the willingness to listen to new ideas, involve people to discuss options, and clearly communicate outcomes.”





### Bergis Jules

"I have spent most of my time, skills, and expertise supporting the organization in our efforts to address diversity issues in the profession. So I was pleased to see the renewed commitment by SAA Council during their November 2014 meeting to focus more attention on the diversity and

cultural competency goals in the new Strategic Plan. While these discussions mostly take place during Council meetings, Council should also provide opportunities for the membership to engage them on a more personal level in conversations on this and other key topics. These could take the form of open forums at the annual meetings or in online spaces, including web forums and social media. As the group charged with governing the organization, it's vitally important for membership [to] get the opportunity to directly engage with the processes, thinking, and discussions behind key Council decisions."

### Kris Kiesling

"Individuals and organizations cannot operate in isolation. Collaboration is about bringing together individuals or organizations with different skill sets to accomplish a common goal. As a profession, archivists have taken a leadership role in digitization and electronic records. But we have, of necessity, collaborated with a wide spectrum of other professionals in this area, including technologists, historians, and librarians. We have established strong working relationships with the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section of the American Library Association, forming new task forces to address perplexing questions such as how to accurately count archival holdings and how to standardize public services metrics. So collaboration is not a new idea for SAA, but there are undoubtedly areas around which new collaborations can be established. I personally have been a member of several successful collaborations, primarily around the development of EAD and DACS."



## SAA Nominating Committee Welcomes Krystal Appiah, Derek Mosley, and Audra Eagle Yun

The 2016 Nominating Committee will comprise **Krystal Appiah** (Library Company of Philadelphia), **Derek Mosley** (Atlanta University Center), **Audra Eagle Yun** (University of California, Irvine), and two third-year Council members selected by the Council at its May 2015 meeting. Appiah will serve as chair of the Nominating Committee. The committee begins its service immediately and works through the fall in preparing a slate of candidates for the 2016 election. The new members of the Nominating Committee defined their criteria for choosing a slate of nominees in their candidate statements.



### Krystal Appiah

"I would [seek] nominees who advocate for archives and archivists and empower others to do the same. Although political advocacy is an important component, there are a number of other ways that nominees might show support for archives and archivists. These include mentoring and grooming other archivists

at all career stages for professional growth and satisfaction; supporting institutional policies that give archivists the necessary authority to carry out their professional responsibilities; and ensuring funding to make professionally staffed archives a sustainable reality."

### Derek Mosley

"I will look for candidates that are dedicated to uplifting the archival profession and ensure that we utilize the knowledge of the members of SAA. We need leaders who acknowledge the changing roles of what archivists do and strive to make sure we are promoting our field effectively. The slate of nominees should be advocates for archives and archivists. They should be able to engage the public and bring a wider awareness of the profession to the public. As a profession, we struggle for adequate funding and I would choose a slate that would push for better funding for the Society and our institutions."



### Audra Eagle Yun

"The leaders chosen by the Nominating Committee and later elected by the membership of SAA should be identified in partnership with a wide range of groups within the organization, reflecting and expanding the diversity of our organization. Working

collaboratively with members of the Nominating Committee for the Society of California Archivists, I have grappled with the challenges of finding qualified, dedicated candidates—balanced with the role of the Nominating Committee member to provide a compelling case to prospective candidates. As a member of the SAA Nominating Committee, I would be committed to a slate of nominees who reflect the shifting practices of our profession, serve as a voice for many perspectives, and react to our urgent call for advocacy."

## WHO WOULD YOU SUGGEST?

The newly elected Nominating Committee members are already on the lookout for prospective candidates for the 2016 SAA election. Suggestions are anonymous and confidential. Submit the prospective candidate's name, institutional affiliation, brief bio, and why you think this person should be considered via the form at <http://www2.archivists.org/governance/election/Nomination-Form>.



# THE FULL CIRCLE

## Visit Cleveland's University Circle during the SAA Annual Meeting

Leslie Cade (Cleveland Museum of Art) and Jill Tatem (Case Western Reserve University), 2015 Host Committee

It's been called Cleveland's second downtown, and for good reason: In just one square mile, University Circle boasts arts and cultural institutions, a world-class university, and renowned health care facilities. Located three miles east of downtown, this cultural mecca has something for everyone. Need a respite from urban landscape? The Cleveland Botanical Garden offers ten acres of outdoor gardens. For art lovers, the Cleveland Museum of Art features more than 42,000 works of art spanning 6,000 years. Or you could stop by Severance Hall—hailed as one of the country's most beautiful music halls—Case Western Reserve University, or the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. It's all in University Circle.

### History

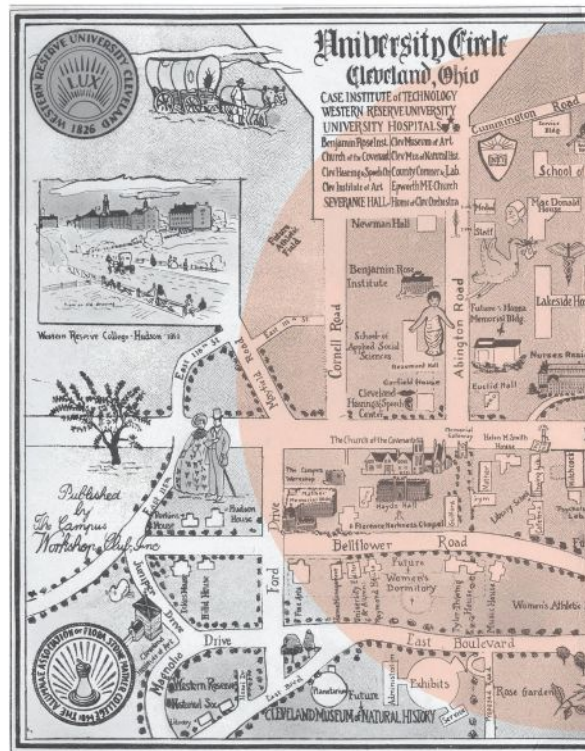
In the early nineteenth century, two Cleveland Universities—Western Reserve University and Case Institute of Technology—relocated to a small community that offered room to grow. This relocation led to the creation of University Circle, named for the educational institutions as well as a traffic turnaround in the area. The Western Reserve School of Design for Women (now the Cleveland Institute of Art) also moved to the area in the 1890s, and the idea of developing an

arts and cultural center was born. The Circle continued to grow in the twentieth century with the addition of the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, the Cleveland Hearing and Speech Center, and others. With the arrival of University Hospitals in 1931, the Circle also became a hub for health care facilities.

### What to Do

Today, University Circle has blossomed, and visitor attractions, retailers, and restaurants line the streets alongside the renowned arts and cultural institutions. Visitors can get a taste of modern art at the Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland, which recently debuted a 34,000-square-foot facility designed by Iranian-born architect Farshid Moussavi. Behind the sleek glass façade reside exhibits such as *Truths and Visions*, which samples sculpture by Joyce J. Scott, whose works express rage about human violence, African and African American history, bigotry, injustice, and gender inequality. If you'd prefer to step back into the past, the Western Reserve Historical Society is the oldest cultural institution in Northeast Ohio. Founded in 1867, it features the Euclid Beach Park Grand Carousel—which has been completely restored forty-five years after the closing of the iconic Euclid Beach Park—as well as the exhibits *Entrepreneurship in the Western Reserve*, *The Victory of Self: The LGBT Community in Northeast Ohio*, and *In Grand Style*, showcasing historic garments and accessories. Enjoying the outdoors is also an option—the Cleveland Cultural Gardens boasts thirty-one gardens, each representing an ethnic group that has contributed to the heritage of the United States and Cleveland. Wade Oval, a seven-acre park, offers free concerts on Wednesdays.

If you go to University Circle with an appetite, you won't be disappointed. L'Albatros Brasserie offers a modern take on classic French cuisine. Located in a former



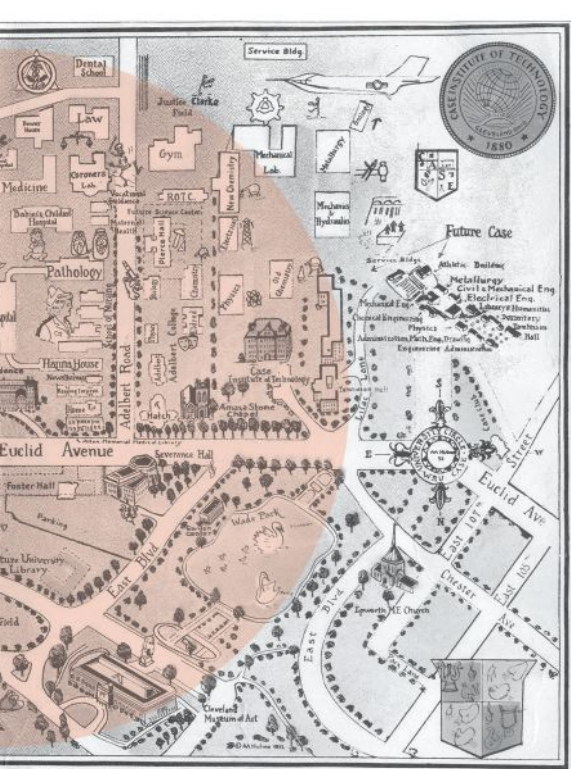
carriage house, the restaurant also features a stunning garden patio. For more casual fare, check out Melt University, where you can feast on a variety of grilled cheese sandwiches, from the classic Kindergarten to the Case Western BBQ or Murray Hill Italian Melt. A stroll up Mayfield Road will take you to historic Little Italy, where you'll find fifteen restaurants and charming galleries.

For more on the dining or attractions at University Circle, visit <http://www.universitycircle.org/>.



**Right:** Franz Welser-Möst conducting The Cleveland Orchestra. *Courtesy of Roger Mastroianni.* **Left:** Betty Ann and Shirley Quackenbush with Balto, the hero dog of Nome, Alaska. You can learn more about Balto at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History (or Lucy, the famous 3.2 million-year-old human ancestor). *Courtesy of 1925 Cleveland Press Collection.*





Map of University Circle. Courtesy of Case Western Reserve University Archives.

## Archives in the Circle

With all the wonderful institutions in the Circle, you can also expect fascinating archives. The Dittrick Medical History Center includes collections of rare books,

manuscripts, artifacts, and images. The Cleveland Orchestra archives features sound recordings of many of the world's greatest conductors and performers. The special collections department of Kelvin Smith Library houses the Case Western Reserve University archives and rare books and manuscripts, including the archives of the Cleveland Playhouse, America's first professional regional theater. Want to learn about cars? As part of its nationally renowned Crawford Auto-Aviation collection, the Western Reserve Historical Society boasts one of the most extensive collections documenting the history of transportation in the United States. More interested in gardening? The Cleveland Botanical Garden was the first urban garden center in the country. Its library is one of the largest circulating gardening libraries in the country and includes significant rare volumes and the Garden archives. And just for fun the Cleveland Museum of Art archives includes a 1948 World Series program, a 1911 fraternity paddle, and an autographed photo of Charles Lindbergh. University Circle repositories will be open for tours on Tuesday, August 18.

See you in the Circle! ■



Take a ride on the Euclid Beach Park Grand Carousel, lovingly restored in the carousel pavilion at the Western Reserve Historical Society. Courtesy of Western Reserve Historical Society.

## Getting There

From Cleveland's Public Square, take the HealthLine toward Louis Stokes Station to University Circle. If driving, take I-90E to Martin Luther King Jr. Dr.; numerous parking lots and garages in the area are listed at <http://www.universitycircle.org/transportation>.



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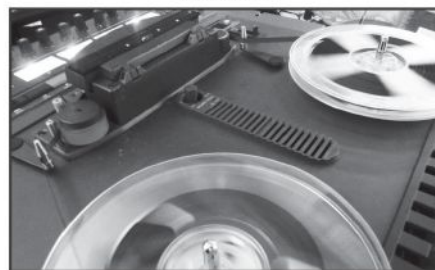
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## UWM Libraries Reopens Geographical Society Archives

The American Geographical Society Library at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee (UWM) Libraries recently reopened the American Geographical Society of New York Archives after receiving a grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources to organize and process the collection. Highlights include log books, diaries, photographs, artifacts of early Polar expeditions, and correspondence with such individuals as Robert Peary, David Livingstone, and Charles Lindbergh. The materials date from the Society's founding in 1851 and include approximately 350 cubic feet of material, with documents relating to well-known figures in American exploration and the larger field of geography from the mid-nineteenth century through most of the twentieth. The finding aid is available at <http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/wiarchives.uw-agsl-agsnyc0001>.

## Wisconsin Historical Society Wins ALA Award

The American Library Association's (ALA) Reference and User Services division listed the Wisconsin Historical Society's online Freedom Summer Collection among 2014's eight Best Historical Materials. The digital collection contains historical documents on the Mississippi Freedom Summer Project of 1964. Its 40,000 pages available online include diaries, letters, memos, photographs, audio recordings, interviews, newsletters, and other materials. The ALA list, in its eleventh year, recognizes the evaluation and effectiveness of historical resources in all fields of history. The Wisconsin Historical Society was the only American historical society to be honored; other winners included websites created in collaborative projects by the European Union and universities in Britain, Germany, Japan, and the United States.



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**Katie Nash** joined the Sawyer Library team at Williams College as the college archivist and special collections librarian. In this position she is responsible for the overall management of the college archives; building relationships with faculty, administrative offices, Chapin Library of Rare Books staff, and liaison librarians to incorporate archival collections into the instruction program; providing general oversight and guidance for the records management program and digital initiatives; and collaborating with various departments on campus to provide research services, outreach, and support.



**Lori Schwartz** joined the staff of Archives and Special Collections at the University of Nebraska at Omaha as the archivist for the US Senator Chuck Hagel Archives in January. Schwartz previously worked at South Carolina Political Collections, part of the University of South Carolina Libraries.



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## IN MEMORIAM

**Dr. Mary Edsall Choquette** passed away in February. Choquette taught in the School of Library and Information Science at The Catholic University of America, the Palmer School at Long Island University, and most recently at the iSchool at the University of Maryland. She also made contributions to dance heritage as consulting archivist at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, whose archives are some of the most important in the memory of modern dance.

**Nancy Cricco**, a longtime member of SAA and university archivist at New York University (NYU), passed away in April. Cricco earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees at NYU and became the university archivist there in 1992. During her time at NYU, she helped to carve out gallery space for historical exhibitions, digitize the archives, started an ambitious oral history project, and acted as an influential mentor to many graduate students. She also oversaw the Margaret Sanger Papers Project and coauthored the book *The Miracle on Washington Square*.



# Yvonne Ng

Yvonne Ng is the senior archivist at WITNESS, an international nonprofit organization that supports individuals using video to document human rights abuses. She manages the organization's video collection, which is recorded by partners and staff, and creates training resources to empower activists to archive and preserve their own videos. In 2014, WITNESS received SAA's Preservation Publication Award for *Activists' Guide to Archiving Video*. Read on as Ng shares how she feels archives can promote and protect human rights.



Yvonne Ng

small, underresourced nonprofits. My interest was in de facto archives, places where media was being made or collected that did not necessarily have the mission or resources to archive and preserve. This culminated in my thesis, which focused on assessing the readiness of small organizations to start their own archival initiatives.

I think what draws me to the archives profession is actually the need for archival expertise and skills *outside* of formal archival institutions. It's here that I feel I can make the most impact.

## SAA: What drew you to the archives profession?

**YN:** I have always had an interest in independent and alternative media. In 2005, I worked at the Canadian Filmmakers' Distribution Centre in Toronto, one of the oldest artist-run centres in Canada, to assess its film print collection. While it was a circulating collection, many of the prints were unique or best copies of important Canadian experimental works. At the time, I had a background in film studies and was just learning film preservation on the job.

I ended up at the Moving Image Archiving and Preservation (MIAP) program at NYU, where I became more acutely aware of the problems of magnetic media and the emerging challenges of digital video. In MIAP, we were taught principles and standards, but also exposed to the realities of both large, slow-moving institutions and

## SAA: What groups have you partnered with to document human rights abuses and advocate for change?

**YN:** WITNESS has worked with more than 360 organizations over our 23-year history. We have partnered with international human rights organizations like Amnesty International, and national human rights groups like LICADHO, which fights forced evictions and land grabs in Cambodia. We have worked with lawyer-led groups like the Research and Advocacy Unit in Zimbabwe and Our Children's Trust, which tackles climate change in the United States. We also partner with independent activist media collectives and citizen witness groups documenting systematic abuses in places like Syria and Brazil.

Continued on page 24 >>



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# MOSAIC PROGRAM UPDATE



Lauren Gaylord



Yvonne Ivey



Daniel Johnson



Karen Karyadi



Annie Tang

Nearly two years have passed since the ARL/SAA Mosaic Program was launched. Here's an update on the 2013–2015 cohort.

## Lauren Gaylord

- University of Texas at Austin
- Internship Host Institution: University of Texas at Austin, Benson Latin American Collection
- Will continue internship through May 2015 and anticipated graduation is May 2015
- Currently working with the digital asset management team at Whole Foods Headquarters.

For more on the program and to meet the 2014–2016 cohort, visit <http://www.arl.org/leadership-recruitment/diversity-recruitment/arl-saa-mosaic-scholarship-program>.

## Yvonne Ivey

- University of North Texas
- Internship Host Institution: George W. Bush Presidential Library
- Completed internship in January 2015 and anticipated graduation is May 2015
- Currently employed as the program assistant in the Office of Strategic Initiatives at the Library of Congress

## Daniel Johnson

- University of North Texas
- Internship Host Institution: University of Houston, Special Collections
- Began internship in September 2014 and will continue through September 2015
- Anticipated graduation is May 2016

## Karen Karyadi

- University of California, Los Angeles
- Internship Host Institution: Getty Research Institute
- Completed internship in September 2014 and anticipated graduation is June 2015
- Currently interning in the Archives Department of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art

## Annie Tang

- University of California, Los Angeles
- Internship Host Institution: University of California, Los Angeles, Special Collections
- Completed internship and graduated in June 2014
- Currently employed as a project archivist at the University of California, Santa Cruz

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## Advocating with Allies

### continued from page 3

Furthermore, they are developing an interactive map that will highlight examples of the influence of humanities projects in local communities and will allow the NHA to illustrate the national value of investing in the humanities.

## Funding Priorities

The NHA annual meeting ended with a roundup of funding priorities for fiscal year 2015 and strategies for advocating the importance of the humanities in our meetings with legislators and policy makers. The NEH is currently funded at its lowest level in constant dollars since 1971. For FY2015 the NHA is advocating for \$155 million, which represents a small increase

over FY2014 levels. Under the IMLS, the NHA is calling for \$38.6 million for the Office of Museum Services and \$180.9 million for library programs. Congress has previously unanimously authorized the Office of Museum Services at this level, but funding for the office has never been fully appropriated. Finally, the NHA is calling for \$5 million for the NHPRC, which still represents a dramatic cut from the \$13 million appropriated in FY2010.

## Meeting with Congressional Staffers

So bright and early the next day, I headed out as part of a delegation to meet with congressional staffers from New York. It should be noted that of the possible nine congressional offices NHA had attempted to schedule meetings with, we were only

able to meet with four. The staff of Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and Representatives John Katko, Tom Reed, and Paul Tonko were extremely gracious and generous with their time engaging with us on the importance of federal funding for these agencies.

I wish there were a happy ending to this story. Alas, two weeks after our advocacy efforts, the House of Representatives released a budget resolution that, among other cuts, eliminated both IMLS and NEH. It is a long road until final action on appropriations bills, so it looks like SAA members will have ample opportunity to engage their elected representatives and promote the crucial role that federal funding has not just for us as a profession, but also the communities we serve. Now is the time to let your members of Congress hear what you have to say. ■

## Crowdsourcing Memories

### continued from page 9

Many of the participants were enthusiastic about how easy it was to find materials and add their own information; in fact, a few described it as being similar to commenting on Facebook. As part of the live workshop, I also developed an abbreviated handout based on the full version of the commenting guide to give to participants to take home with them. The other side of the handout included a call for donations, listing the types of materials the CHC was seeking to include in the Ruston Academy archive.

With the workshop and handout, alumni could return home with a clear idea of the different ways in which they could continue to contribute to preserving their school's history and legacy.

## Takeaways and Future Steps

Crowdsourcing collections and description is a hot topic in libraries and archives, but it is rarely a successful undertaking without an engaged audience. At CHC we recognized that we had willing participants, a dedicated group of alumni who were interested in building their collections and helping to improve access to them through better description. Working through the pilot project and with alumni at the workshop, I found that most of the alumni were comfortable with the technology and the commenting process and were enthusiastic about contributing their knowledge and memories to the digital platform. Like any project requiring collaboration, the CHC will need to continue to take an active role with the alumni group to encourage crowdsourced description and collecting. The CHC continues this effort by working with alumni leaders who solicit donations from fellow alumni and encourage participation in the crowdsourcing project.

Throughout the years, the CHC and Ruston Academy have developed a strong bond that continues to grow even stronger. Lasting friendships such as these require constant maintenance and feeding, but the hardest work of forging that bond has already happened. Today, the CHC and Ruston Academy look forward to working together to grow the archive, encouraging participation in the metadata commenting project, and exploring other avenues of collaboration. ■

## Notes

For more information on Ruston Academy and the Ruston Academy records, see the finding aid at Cuban Heritage Collection, University of Miami Libraries, Coral Gables, Florida. <http://proust.library.miami.edu/findingaids/?p=collections/findingaid&id=1148>.

For details on the Henry King Stanford Award of the Amigos of the Cuban Heritage Collection, see <http://library.miami.edu/chc/amigos/stanford/>.

For more information on the Cuban Heritage Collection Fellowships program, see <http://library.miami.edu/chc/fellows/>.

Ruston Academy records digital collection available at <http://merrick.library.miami.edu/cubanHeritage/chc5293/>.

For an example of a digitized record with crowdsourced description, see: <http://merrick.library.miami.edu/cdm/singleitem/collection/ruston/id/274/rec/2>.

## Project Members

María R. Estorino Dooling, Chair,  
Cuban Heritage Collection

Natalie Baur, Archivist, Cuban Heritage  
Collection

Amanda Moreno, Processing Assistant,  
Cuban Heritage Collection

Lyn MacCorkle, Digital Repository  
Librarian

Mairelys Lemus-Rojas, Metadata and  
Cataloging Librarian

## Bringing Hidden Collections to Light

continued from page 5

There are some 340 such organizations in the region (not all of which are archival repositories). Many of these are all-volunteer organizations that face daunting challenges.

Although some archivists may argue that important archival collections are better off in larger, professionally managed repositories that have the resources to provide adequate care for them, the idea of a wholesale transfer of collections from small to large repositories is simply not feasible, for both logistical and philosophical reasons. From a logistical standpoint, the sheer size and scope of small repository collections in a given region would overwhelm many larger repositories (such as county historical societies or university special collections libraries); in most cases the larger institutions would not have the space or resources to handle the materials, or they would be outside of their collecting scope.

Perhaps more importantly, from a philosophical standpoint, the people at small repositories are deeply committed to the history of their local communities and organizations. They treasure their archival collections and, despite limited resources, invest much time and effort in preserving the materials and using them for research, exhibits, school programs, and other activities. The idea of removing these local archival treasures from the community or organization that created them would be anathema to these dedicated individuals.

While in some cases transfer to a better-resourced repository is certainly warranted—when the collections are exceptionally important and/or conditions in a small repository especially poor—on a broader scale the only feasible option is to work with small repositories in making their collections more accessible and improving their stewardship of them. This is what HSP is doing with the HCI-PSAR project. (It should be noted that, through the HCI-PSAR project, HSP now has comprehensive data on small repository collections in the Philadelphia region and thus

has the information necessary to respond quickly should collections become at risk due to a crisis or the closing of a local small repository.)

## A National Model

With the HCI-PSAR project HSP has developed an effective approach to large-scale surveying and assessing of small repository archival collections. HSP envisions the project as a national model for making such collections better known and more accessible. Later in 2015 HSP will be working with the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh to train its staff in project methodology and undertake some sample surveying in that region. HSP also has been in discussion with archivists in several other states regarding the possibility of serving in an advisory capacity for those states considering undertaking similar small repository projects.

\* \* \*

The archival profession has become increasingly sophisticated and has made enormous strides in making historical materials more accessible through new technologies and descriptive standards. Smaller, nonprofessional repositories are also stewards of important archival collections. A more inclusive approach will help to ensure that the full range of the nation's documentary heritage is preserved and accessible.

For more information on the HCI-PSAR project, visit the project website at [www.hsp.org/hcipsar](http://www.hsp.org/hcipsar) or contact Project Director Jack McCarthy at [jmccarthy@hsp.org](mailto:jmccarthy@hsp.org). HCI-PSAR repository finding aids are available at <http://dla.library.upenn.edu/dla/pacscl/ancillary.html?id=collections/pacscl/repositories2>. ■

## Notes

- <sup>1</sup> Historical Society of Tacony Frank Shuman collection, Historical Society of Tacony: [http://hdl.library.upenn.edu/1017/d/pacscl/HSP\\_HST06](http://hdl.library.upenn.edu/1017/d/pacscl/HSP_HST06).
- <sup>2</sup> Pearl Bailey papers, African American Museum in Philadelphia: [http://hdl.library.upenn.edu/1017/d/pacscl/HSP\\_AAMPG95013](http://hdl.library.upenn.edu/1017/d/pacscl/HSP_AAMPG95013).
- <sup>3</sup> 1st Regiment Infantry, Pennsylvania records, 1st Regiment Infantry Museum: [http://hdl.library.upenn.edu/1017/d/pacscl/HSP\\_1R02](http://hdl.library.upenn.edu/1017/d/pacscl/HSP_1R02).

## Someone You Should Know

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**SAA:** What role can archives play in protecting and promoting human rights?

**YN:** We all know on the most basic level that archives and archival records are useful for securing rights and proving abuse. But outside of formal archives, good archival practices also can be advantageously employed by people who are monitoring and documenting human rights in their communities.

Videos by citizen witnesses and activists may contain valuable information and evidence but are particularly vulnerable to loss, tampering, or decontextualization. There are greater security concerns for the individuals and for the footage. People are using available cameras or mobile phones with sometimes unsustainable formats, storing on consumer-grade portable hard drives, or uploading to third-party video sharing sites. Also, activists who film usually do not have time to properly arrange or describe their content, and the more they record, the harder it becomes to find and identify particular videos.

Archivists can support activists who are protecting and promoting human rights by sharing knowledge about basic practices that can help ensure that authentic evidentiary content is properly protected, preserved, and accessible later on.

**SAA:** What's one thing you wish everyone knew about archives?

**YN:** I would want everyone to know that archiving should not just take place in archives, but is an essential component of present-day digital production workflows. Digital video can become inaccessible immediately, not just far off in the future, if it is not properly handled, managed, and described from the outset.

**SAA:** As an archivist, I can

**YN:** . . . help people make the best use of their media to create change in the world. ■



## Refusing Amnesia

continued from page 6

past sixteen years. They include private collections, international donors, purchases from open markets, local archives, Chinese government publications, and collections in university libraries around the world. The database's chief editor, Yongyi Song, who is an avid collector of Cultural Revolution materials and was jailed for several years during the Cultural Revolution for organizing underground book clubs, also donated his entire collection of Cultural Revolution texts, many of which are primary sources contemporary with the Cultural Revolution itself.

This repository for information on the darkest decades in PRC history sheds light on a number of complex historical issues. Through classified government documents, it provides evidence of cannibalism during both the Great Famine of 1959–1962 and the Cultural Revolution of 1966–1976. Through the transcripts of Mao's private conversation with American reporter Edgar Snow, some of Mao's true reasons for starting the Cultural Revolution and waging a war against his own party and comrades are revealed. Likewise, evidence of mass executions of millions of people and the existence of a "death quota" in the so-called Campaign to Suppress Counterrevolutionaries during the Korean War comes to light through documents, such as Mao's top-secret telegram "Instructions on the ratio of killings," dated April 20, 1951, in which he discussed the assigned rate of executions.

### An Archival Milestone

Particularly noteworthy is that this archival database series came into being when the regime in question is still in power, unlike in other instances, such as when the Stasi files became available after the collapse of the former East Germany.

Equally noteworthy are the creators of this archival milestone—a small group of academic librarians and college professors of Chinese descent who felt duty-bound to use their library, academic, and information technology skills to collect, compile, preserve, and disseminate the archival sources of a closed society through the creation of this database. They are survivors



Yongyi Song, chief editor of *The Database for the History of Contemporary Chinese Political Campaigns, 1949–1976*, standing before volumes of Red Guard texts that he compiled.

of the Cultural Revolution and once lived through the tumultuous historical periods that the series covers.

Together, they overcame myriad challenges that emerged during its creation, including funding, copyright issues, censorship, and government interference, which culminated in the detention and imprisonment of Yongyi in 1999 by the Chinese government, which charged him with "stealing state secrets," and the ensuing international rescue campaign led by the American Library Association, American Association of University Professors, and the International Federation of Library Associations.

Scholars from around the world have recognized the significance of this unique archival treasure trove and have given it critical acclaim. Professor Andrew Walder of

Stanford University calls it "an extraordinary achievement." Professor Jonathan Unger of Australian National University describes it as "an accomplishment of the first order," while professor Frank Dikotter of the University of Hong Kong views it as "nothing less than a monument."

\* \* \*

Perhaps Margaret Mead's often-quoted observation still rings true here, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Thanks to this small group of thoughtful and committed academics who felt called to embark on this historical project and toiled over it for sixteen years, scholars of the PRC and the Maoist era around the world now have access to previously unavailable primary sources on all of the most violent, tumultuous, and important phases of PRC between 1949 and 1976. It is only fitting that Roderick Macfarquhar, a preeminent Harvard professor and leading scholar on Cultural Revolution studies, notes in his preface to the database series that the research community owes Yongyi and his fellow editors "a considerable debt of gratitude." ■

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## New Digs continued from page 10

expanded by twelve feet and was given a full third floor.

In the old archives, there were records on top of the shelving, almost touching the ceiling, as well as on tables and the floors of the research/processing/office room. The archives was bursting at the seams, and faculty and staff across campus were holding on to records because I had no room to take them. It was hard to continue to wait for those records while the archives was in the temporary space, but now I am starting to receive newspapers, posters, flyers, performing arts recordings, programs, and other materials that document the life of the school.

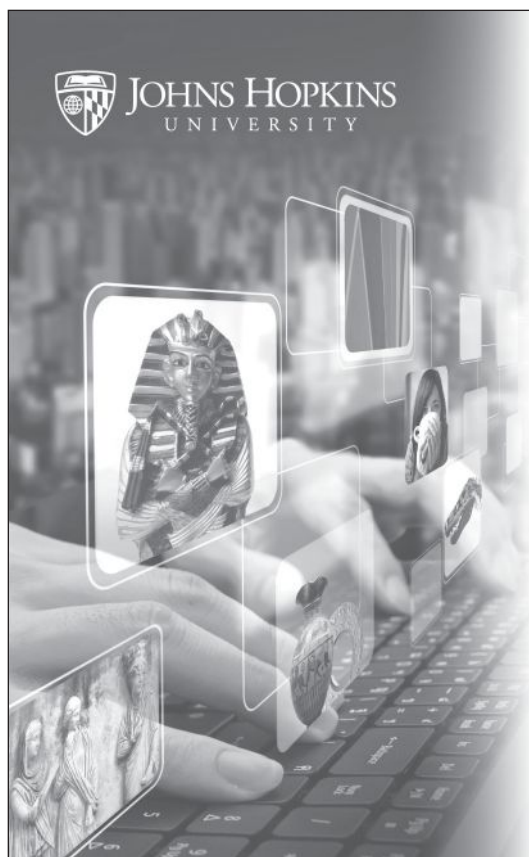
My current favorite task is giving tours of the new space for parents, administrators, teachers, students, and visitors. For some visitors, this is the first time they have seen an archives space, so they have no frame of reference for how incredible it is to find this kind of facility in a K–12 school. I now not only have room to house collections, I



will also be able to bring in students and teachers from across campus to teach them about Westminster history, primary sources, and archives in general. While we were still under construction and I was in our temporary space, I had to go to the classrooms and bring items with me, instead of students coming to the archives. Now I have the ability to really give them a sense of the collections, storage, and history of the school. I also hope that some of these students will consider becoming archivists, especially after they see how cool it really is. ■

**Top:** The Westminster Schools Archives in 1994 in the former textbook storage area. Processing, storage, reference, and the office space are all in one room.

**Bottom:** One side of the new archives stacks room, with plenty of space to grow the collections (2015). *Courtesy of The Westminster Schools.*



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## Michiana Memory continued from page 11

before the end of June 2015. Stankrauff administered the grant and supervised the student workers, Sipocz oversaw the process of working with CONTENTdm, and Garner worked with the IUSB archival collections and coordinated plans for the formal collection launch at the center.

SJCPL gathers usage data for *Michiana Memory*. Google Analytics tracks page views, sessions, and items shared, printed, or downloaded. We are also documenting collection-level usage statistics and storage and item counts through the CONTENTdm software. By mid-November the site was available through *Indiana Memory* and submitted for inclusion in the Digital Public Library of America.

### The Civil Rights and African American History Collection

At the end of February 2015, with scanning nearly complete and more than half of the objects uploaded, the collection included 228 compound objects with 1,100 pages of content.

The materials in the *Civil Rights and African American History Collection* tell the story of the African American community in St. Joseph County. Our earliest title is *Review of the South Bend Fugitive Slave Case, Tried in 1849, '50, and '51*. Another title, *The Negro in South Bend* from 1922, serves as an excellent

summary to that point, coming on the crest of the Great Migration, as waves of African Americans traveled north looking for peace and prosperity.

The collection also features publications and photographs from local clubs and organizations that illustrate the African Americans' lives in the county, as well as significant archival collections from community Civil Rights leaders. The database also will include *The Reformer*, an African American newspaper that was published from 1967 until the end of 1971. It covers the transition as the Civil Rights 1960s gave way to the 1970s era of school reorganizations and community activism. It also provides a unique opportunity to let the community tell its own story.

### The Collection Launch Events

We celebrated the formal collection launch at IUSB's Natatorium—a part of the Civil Rights Heritage Center—on February 3. Garner worked on press releases and served as master of ceremonies for our events. Speaker Dr. Nicole Etcheson, Alexander M. Bracken Professor of History from Ball State University, presented highlights from her research on African American soldiers during the Civil War and Indiana's attitudes toward abolition, fugitive slave laws, and the Emancipation Proclamation.

The lecture was followed by an evening reception. At least sixty attendees braved the snow and cold to hear speakers, which included administrators from both SJCPL

and IUSB, key members of the local African American community, and Etcheson.

Before the program, attendees took the opportunity to explore the *Civil Rights and African American History* collection bookmarked on seven laptops. With guidance from us, the public eagerly searched the database and identified friends, family, and community leaders among the pages.

In addition, there has been a great amount of publicity for the project. We appeared on *Experience Michiana*, a show on a public television station (WNIT) that focuses on local events. The *South Bend Tribune* and the IUSB student newspaper, *The Preface*, have interviewed us and featured the reception and the *Michiana Memory* site. The project also has been featured in articles, including SAA's *Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable* newsletter, Indiana Genealogical Society's *Indiana Genealogist*, and the South Bend Area Genealogical Society's newsletter.

\* \* \*

We have applied for a 2015 LSTA grant through IMLS to continue the work of this project, and we're committed to making this as representative and useful a resource as it can be.

The Reverend Buford Gordon wrote a famous sermon titled *The Quest of Restless Souls*. SJCPL has the only known original 1922 printing of it, and now it can be shared with the world. ■

## Breaking Down Borders continued from page 14

the unprecedented challenges and merits of establishing the Caribbean IRN Collection, which came by way of close collaboration with dLOC. The Caribbean IRN Collection is an open-access digital collection hosted on dLOC that offers a number of personal, community grassroots, and political organizing perspectives made freely and widely available on the web for the first time. Together, these two projects remind us what our work is all about.

Both presentations touched on the challenges the speakers faced when deciding to embark on their respective projects, as well as on how to best proceed after reaching

certain landmarks. The recorded webinar is available for your viewing pleasure at <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00029584/00002> or you can click on a link on our Facebook page or blog. Preparations are currently underway to finalize the details of LACCHA's future webinars. Here is a tentative preview of upcoming events:

- June: Documentary Heritage Rescue in Ecuador and the Archives and Archival Research in Cuba (in Spanish)
- July: Mass Digitization in the Caribbean by the Florida and Puerto Rico Newspaper Project
- September: Introduction to MPLP / MPLP Implementation in a Judicial Archives in Quito, Ecuador (in Spanish)

Please make sure to periodically check for updates on our blog at <https://laccha.wordpress.com/>, like us on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter @SAA\_LACCHA. ■

### SAA's LACCHA Roundtable Project Team Members

#### Officers

Natalie Baur, University of Miami,  
Senior Co-Chair  
Margarita Vargas-Betancourt,  
University of Florida, Junior Co-Chair

#### Liaisons

George Apodaca, University of Delaware,  
Online Communications Liaison  
Tanya Zanish-Belcher, SAA Council  
Liaison



# Have You Seen the NEW AmericanArchivist.org?

Gregory S. Hunter, Ph.D. CA, CRM  
Editor, *The American Archivist*

SAA rolled out a new website for *The American Archivist* in April. This elegant destination for the entire run and future issues of the journal is built on a robust online publishing platform—Pinnacle, powered by Atypon and available through Allen Press—that offers tremendous functionality. For users, it provides a better experience accessing and logging into the system and includes new features such as favorites and email notifications.

Here are enhancements to *The American Archivist* expected over the course of the next year:

- A web-based manuscript submission, tracking, and peer-review system that allows authors to submit original and revised manuscripts, editorial staff to send manuscripts out for peer review, reviewers to conduct reviews and return comments, and the editor to make final decisions.
- An XML-based publication workflow that begins with the receipt of a fully edited manuscript and ends with publication in multiple formats—HTML5, PDF, and print.
- A flexible browser reading environment in the online version with HTML5.
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- The Digital Object Identifier (DOI) applied to all content.
- The capability of bundling or repackaging journal content as “special collections” appropriate for classroom use or specialized thematic groupings.



It would be tempting to say that the sole purpose of this transformation was to improve the reader experience. However, the journal's online service provider since 2007—MetaPress—made a business decision in spring 2014 to discontinue hosting online journals, which compelled us to act swiftly and find a new solution. The Editorial Board and SAA leadership chose to look at this development as an opportunity rather than an obstacle. There had been ongoing discussions about enhancing the journal's online presence. Therefore, we decided to take the big-picture view of the situation.

SAA formed an Online Publication Working Group a year ago to explore options and present recommendations to the Editorial Board. The Working Group members were Paul Conway (chair and a member of the group that initially took the journal online), Amy Cooper Cary (journal reviews editor), Bethany Anderson (Publications Board), Brad Houston (SAA Archives), and Teresa Brinati (SAA staff liaison). The Working

Group developed a list of requirements for a new vendor, identified sixteen potential vendors, and prepared an RFP that was disseminated to those vendors. The Working Group then reviewed the seven vendor responses, conducted interviews, and ultimately recommended Allen Press. SAA signed a contract with Allen in January. On behalf of all SAA members and journal subscribers, I want to thank the Working Group for an extraordinary effort in a very short time.

The Editorial Board and SAA staff are excited about our relationship with Allen Press. If you haven't already done so, take a look at *AmericanArchivist.org* and let us know what you think. Here's what will continue: open access to online content except articles in the three most recent volumes (which will be reserved for SAA members and journal subscribers), printing and distribution of the journal, and exceptional content that makes *The American Archivist* the leading publication in the archives field. ■

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